

Application No. 10/002,589
Amendment dated August ____, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 06/07/2004
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Twice amended) An elongated unitary multi-purpose strap for hitch securement to discrete bodies at one end of said strap and for supporting said bodies from an end remote from said one end to enable dragging or suspending said bodies from said remote end, said strap comprising flexible flat belting material between one-half and three inches in width and having a plurality of loops extending outwardly in opposite directions from a central area of said strap at which said loops are firmly secured together solely at said central area by attaching means, said plurality of loops comprising a pair of first body-securing loops of a fixed essentially equal length of at least eighteen inches at said one end of said strap, said first loops being normally aligned when said strap is in a condition of non-use but which are flexibly separable laterally relative to each other outwardly from said central area to enable separate securement to each of said bodies, and said remote end of said strap comprising a supporting loop extending from said central area in a direction opposite to said pair of first body-securing loops.
2. (Amended) A multi-purpose strap according to claim 1 wherein said supporting loop comprises a pair of second loops of essentially equal length.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Amended) A multi-purpose strap according to claim 2 wherein one first body-securing loop and one supporting loop comprises a first continuous strap, wherein the other first body-securing loop and the other supporting loop comprises a second continuous strap, and wherein said first and second continuous straps are of the same

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width and thickness dimensions and are interconnected at said central area by means of stitching.

5-7 (Canceled)

8. (Amended) A multi-purpose strap according to claim 2 wherein all of said loops are formed from a single continuous belt which is initially folded over onto itself at its midpoint into two elongated unconnected loops extending outwardly from said midpoint, and wherein said central area is formed by interconnecting said two elongated unconnected loops to create said pair of first body-securing loops and said pair of supporting loops.

9. (Amended) A multi-purpose strap according to claim 8 wherein said body-securing and supporting loops are of different lengths when said strap is laid flat.

10. (Twice amended) A multi-purpose strap according to claim 1 wherein said multi-purpose strap comprises a length of flat belting which has been folded over at a midway point onto itself into two equal half-length sections, wherein both of said sections have been tucked inwardly and directed in equal amounts toward but not reaching said folded-over midway point, and wherein the inwardly tucked ends and adjacent portions of said belting have been stitched together to form said central area, said at least one supporting loop comprising a single loop extending between the central stitched area and said folded-over midway point.

11. A multi-purpose strap according to claim 10 wherein said body-securing and supporting loops are of different lengths when said strap is laid flat.

12-17 (Canceled)

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18. A multi-purpose strap according to claim 1 wherein said strap is formed from a pair of continuous belts of equal length, said belts lying adjacent one another and being joined at said central area, each of said belts comprising a body-securing and supporting loop on the same side of said strap.

19-20 (Canceled)